

The **Board of Examiners for Nursing** held a meeting on June 19, 2019 the Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut in room 2-A.

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**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jason Blando, Public Member  
Mary M. Brown, RN  
Elizaida Delgado, LPN  
Mary Dietmann, RN  
Geraldine Marrocco, RN  
Gina M. Reiners, RN

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Patricia C. Bouffard, RN  
Lisa S. Freeman, Public Member  
Jennifer Long, APRN

**ALSO PRESENT:** Alfreda Gaither, Legal Counsel to the Board, DPH  
Kathleen Boulware, Public Health Services Manager, DPH  
Helen Smith Nurse Consultant, DPH  
Brittany Allen, Staff Attorney, DPH  
Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, DPH  
Leslie Scoville, Staff Attorney, DPH  
Diane Wilan, Staff Attorney, DPH  
Matthew Antonetti, Principal Attorney, DPH  
Jeffrey A. Kardys, Administrative Hearings Specialist, DPH  
Gail Gregoriades, Court Reporter

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Mary Brown, Chair pro tempore, called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

#### **STUDENTS**

Students from Lincoln Technical Institute, Stone Academy and Tunxis Community College were welcomed.

#### **OPEN FORUM**

Nothing to report

#### **NATIONAL COUNCIL STATE BOARDS OF NURSING**

Nothing to report

#### **MINUTES**

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Elizaida Delgado, to approve the minutes, from the May15, 2019 meeting. The motion passed unanimously

#### **SCHOOL ISSUES**

Porter & Chester Institute

- Nursing Education Supervisor – Hamden Campus

Dr. Maria Sparmer, Director of the Practical Nursing Program was present on behalf of Porter & Chester Institute along with Attorney Joan Feldman

The Board reviewed a request to allow Dr. Sparmer to have oversight of the Nursing Education Program at the Hamden campus until a qualified supervisor is hired.

Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, to grant the request. The motion passed unanimously.

- NCLEX Scores – Plan of Correction

Helen Smith, Nurse Consultant, DPH provided a synopsis of Porter & Chester's plan of correction regarding NCLEX scores for the Rocky Hill - Day Program and the Stratford - Evening Program. Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, that the plan of correction be approved and that a progress report be submitted to the Board in six months. The motion passed unanimously.

Mary Dietmann made a motion, seconded by Geraldine Marrocco, that Porter & Chester's Stratford-- Evening Program and the Rocky Hill – Day Program be placed on conditional status. The motion passed unanimously. A request by Attorney Feldman to reconsider this decision was denied.

- Investigation of Complaint by former student

Attorney Feldman reported that efforts to reach out to the former student have been unanswered. Helen Smith, Nurse Consultant, DPH reported that additional information the Board requested the former student provide to the Department of Public Health has not been received.

### Stone Academy

- Approval of Interim Program Director

Linda Dahlin and Terry Kinsley were present from Stone Academy. Mary Dietmann made a motion, seconded by Geraldine Marrocco, to approve Terry Kinsley as the Interim Director of the Practical Nursing Program.

- NCLEX Scores – Plan of Correction

Helen Smith, Nurse Consultant, DPH provided a synopsis of Stone Academy's plan of correction regarding NCLEX scores for the West Haven - Day Program.

Mary Dietmann made a motion, seconded by Gina Reiners, that the plan of correction be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Mary Dietmann made a motion, seconded by Gina Reiners, that Stone Academy's West Haven - Day Program be placed on conditional status. The motion passed unanimously.

- Request for change of NCLEX Program Code

The Board discussed Stone Academy's request for one program code for all Stone Academy sites. The Board commented that codes for each site is a useful tool for evaluating nursing programs that have multiple locations.

Kathleen Boulware, Public Health Services Manager, DPH commented that the DPH will review this issue concerning all Connecticut nursing programs and will report back to the Board.

### University of Connecticut School of Nursing– Faculty review

At its meeting on May 15, 2019, the Board requested that UCONN provide to the Department of Public Health for review, a list of nursing school faculty, and their credentials.

UCONN provided the credentials for the 36 faculty who currently teach in the pre-licensure program.

The Board requested that the DPH conduct an audit of faculty credentials for all pre-licensure programs in Connecticut.

## **SCOPE OF PRACTICE**

Helen Smith, Nurse Consultant, DPH provided a summary of nursing scope of practice inquiries received by the Department of Public Health during May 2019.

## **CRITERIA FOR REINSTATEMENT OF LAPSED LICENSES**

Helen Smith, Nurse Consultant, DPH reported that Charter Oak College is not interested in allowing licensed practical nurses in need of a refresher to participate in the LPN to RN Bridge Program and is not interested in starting an LPN refresher program.

### **REQUEST FOR CLAFICATION OF LICENSE REINSTATEMNT TERMS**

Jessica Johnson, RN

Ms. Johnson was present with Attorney Richard Brown.

At its April 17, 2019 meeting the Board reviewed a license reinstatement request regarding Jessica Johnson, RN. Following review, the Board recommended that Ms. Johnson's license be reinstated to probation, after successfully passing the NCLEX examination, for a period of four years with conditions including drug/alcohol screening, therapy and employer evaluations, and attendance at AA/NA meetings.

Ms. Johnson now requests that the NCLEX examination requirement be waived.

Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Elizaida Delgado, to deny the request in that Ms. Johnson's last clinical practice of nursing was in 2013. The motion passed unanimously.

### **REQUEST TO TERMINATE PROBATION**

Kathryn Jaworski, LPN – License No. 035712

Ms. Jaworski was present, without representation, regarding her request to terminate the probation of her licensed practical nurse license which is due to end on April 2020. Staff Attorney Leslie Scoville was present for the Department of Public Health an spoke in opposition to Ms. Jaworski's request. Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, to deny the request. The motion passed unanimously.

### **MEMORANDA OF DECISION**

Jeannette Czaja, LPN - Petition No. 2016-1423

Geraldine Marrocco moved to affirm the Board's prior decision that Ms. Czaja's licensed practical nurse license be revoked. The motion was seconded by Gina Reiners and passed unanimously. Mary Brown signed the Order.

Dana Gibson, RN - Petition No. 2018-555

Gina Reiners moved to affirm the Board's prior decision that Ms. Gibson's registered nurse license be revoked. The motion was seconded by Mary Dietmann and passed unanimously. Mary Brown signed the Order.

Julia Heller-Smith, RN - Petition No. 2017-1356

Geraldine Marrocco moved to table this matter to allow for a revision of the proposed probationary terms. Mary Dietmann seconded the motion.

### **MOTION TO WITHDRAW STATEMENT OF CHARGES**

Kimberly Eldridge, RN - Petition No. 2018-559

Staff Attorney Diane Wilan presented a Motion to Withdraw Statement of Charges in this matter based on Ms. Eldridge's surrender of her license.

Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann to grant the motion to withdraw the Statement of Charges. The motion passed unanimously. Mary Brown signed the Order.

### **MOTIONS FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

Brian Gross, RN - Petition No. 2019-536

Staff Attorney Diane Wilan presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Brian Gross. Mr. Gross was not present and was not represented by counsel.

Geraldine Marrocco moved to grant the Department's Motion for Summary Suspension in that respondent's continued practice as a nurse is a clear and immediate danger to public health, safety and welfare. The motion was seconded by Gina Reiners and passed unanimously.

Mary Brown signed the Summary Suspension Order. A hearing will be scheduled for July 17, 2019.

Charlene Zikaras, RN - Petition No. 2019-522

Staff Attorney Leslie Scoville presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Charlene Zikaras. Ms. Zikaras was present but was not represented by counsel.

Geraldine Marrocco moved to deny the Department's Motion for Summary Suspension. The motion was seconded by Mary Dietmann. Following discussion the motion to deny failed unanimously.

Mary Dietmann moved to grant the Department's Motion for Summary Suspension in that respondent's continued practice as a nurse is a clear and immediate danger to public health, safety and welfare. The motion was seconded by Elizaida Delgado and passed unanimously.

Mary Brown signed the Summary Suspension Order. A hearing will be scheduled for July 17, 2019. A copy of the Summary Suspension Order was provided to Ms. Zikaras.

Dana Zordan, RN - Petition No. 2019- 410

Staff Attorney Brittany Allen presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Dana Zordan. Mr. Zordan was present with Attorney Joan Feldman.

Gina Reiners moved to grant the Department's Motion for Summary Suspension in that respondent's continued practice as a nurse is a clear and immediate danger to public health, safety and welfare. The motion was seconded by Mary Dietmann and passed unanimously.

Mary Brown signed the Summary Suspension Order. A hearing will be scheduled for July 17, 2019. A copy of the Summary Suspension Order was provided to Attorney Feldman.

**CONSENT ORDERS**

Daisy Acosta, LPN - Petition No. 2018- 615

Leslie Scoville, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Daisy Acosta, RN.

Attorney Richard Brown was present with respondent.

Mary Dietmann moved and Gina Reiners seconded, to approve the Consent Order which places Ms. Acosta's license on probation for one year with a reprimand. The motion passed unanimously. Mary Brown signed the Order.

Renee Cottrill, LPN - Petition No. 2019-370

Brittany Allen, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Renee Cottrill, LPN.

Ms. Cottrill was not present and was not represented by counsel.

Geraldine Marrocco moved and Mary Dietmann seconded, to approve the Consent Order which suspends Ms. Cottrill's license for three months with concurrent probation for four years. The motion passed with all in favor except Elizaida Delgado who abstained. Mary Brown signed the Order.

Stacey Thompson, LPN - Petition No: 2018-798

Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Stacey Thompson, LPN.

Ms. Thompson was not present and was not represented by counsel.

Geraldine Marrocco moved and Mary Dietmann seconded, to approve the Consent Order which places Ms. Thompson's license on probation for one year with a reprimand. The motion passed unanimously. Mary Brown signed the Order.

Rafael Diaz, RN - Petition No: 2018-1170

Diane Wilan, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Rafael Diaz, RN.

Attorney Mary Alice Moore Leonhardt was present with respondent.

Gina Reiners moved and Geraldine Marrocco seconded, to approve the Consent Order which imposes a reprimand and a \$1000.00 civil penalty. The motion passed unanimously. Mary Brown signed the Order.

Elaine Reynolds, RN - Petition No.2018-1301

Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Elaine Reynolds, RN.

Ms. Reynolds was not present and was not represented by counsel.

Gina Reiners moved and Elizaida Delgado seconded, to approve the Consent Order. Following discussion the motion failed unanimously. The Board recommended the addition of a civil penalty.

Adrienne Ziemkiewicz, RN - Petition No.2018-702

Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Adrienne Ziemkiewicz, RN.

Attorney Ellen Costello was present for respondent.

Gina Reiners moved and Elizaida Delgado seconded, to approve the Consent Order which imposes a reprimand. The motion passed unanimously. Mary Brown signed the Order.

Tammy Meyer, RN - Petition No. 2019-72

Mathew Antonetti, Principal Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Tammy Meyer, RN.

Ms. Meyer was not present and was not represented by counsel.

Gina Reiners moved and Mary Dietmann seconded, to approve the Consent Order which restricts Ms. Meyer from practicing in Connecticut. The motion passed unanimously. Mary Brown signed the Order.

## **HEARINGS**

Christina Mahner, LPN - Petition No. 2019- 347

Staff Attorney Diane Wilan was present for the Department of Public Health. Ms. Mahner was present but was not represented by counsel for this hearing concerning her request to reinstate her license which was revoked on May 17, 2017

Geraldine Marrocco moved and Gina Reiners seconded to enter executive session to take testimony pertaining to confidential treatment records. The motion passed unanimously. The Board entered executive session from 12:00 noon to 12:10 p.m. No motions were made and no votes were taken in executive session.

Following close of the hearing the Board conducted fact-finding.

Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, that Ms. Mahner did not provide sufficient evidence of sobriety or sufficient evidence of her ability to return to nursing with reasonable skill and safety, therefore Ms. Manher's request for license reinstatement should be denied. The motion passed unanimously.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

It was the unanimous decision of the Board Members present to adjourn this meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Mary Brown, RN  
Board of Examiners for Nursing